

Dr. Peterson

Bicycle Infrastructure Project Press Event

12 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, 2012, Tech Square (5th & West Peachtree Streets)

- Thank you Mayor Reed. Georgia Tech was asked by the City of Atlanta to develop a free phone app called Cycle Atlanta. The software encourages cyclists to upload their routes, every time they ride, so that transportation officials can use the information to make better decisions on the best places to invest money in cycling infrastructure.
- The new crowd sourcing app is a convenient way for cyclists to provide city transportation planners with valuable input in order to design an infrastructure that meets the needs of cyclists with a focus on safety.
- And, you'll be glad to learn that it isn't the cycling equivalent of texting while driving. Cyclists simply tap "Start" before riding to begin recording their route. When the ride is over, they tap "Save" and add trip details. There will be a demo of the app in the few minutes, and it will also be demonstrated at City Hall later this afternoon.
- In the future, we plan to expand the app so that cyclists can also use GPS to alert the city about potholes and specific unsafe road conditions.
- It is interesting to note that 50 percent of all trips are three miles or less, yet less than two percent of those trips are biked. One of the main reasons adults don't use cycling is due to the lack of safe infrastructure, including dedicated bike routes and roads with bicycle lanes. This new app will help the city make bicycle infrastructure investments where they matter most.
- The app is an example of interdisciplinary innovation that is trademark Georgia Tech. It was designed by Georgia Tech assistant professors Dr. Kari Watkins from the College of Engineering and Dr. Christopher Le Dantec from Digital Media in the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. Their team of students includes Mariam Asad, Anhong Guo, Aditi Misra, Alex Poznanski, and Caleb Southern.
- Cycle Atlanta is a joint project between Georgia Tech and the City of Atlanta Department of Planning & Community Development, the Atlanta Bicycle

Coalition and Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). It is funded through a contribution from the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition and the Atlanta Regional Commission's Livable Centers Initiative planning program. Additional support is provided by the GVI Center and the Institute for People and Technology at Georgia Tech.

- Also involved with the Cycle Atlanta app is the Atlanta Business Chronicle. ABC named Georgia Tech as its 2011 Partner of the Year. We collaborate on an initiative called “Starter Bikes,” which allows the sale of refurbished bikes on campus.
- Georgia Tech’s involvement in cycling is part of our commitment to sustainability. Earlier this year Georgia Tech was named a Bicycle Friendly University by the League of American Bicyclists. We also have a partnership with viaCycle, a bicycle-sharing system.
- Cycling is an enjoyable, healthy and environmentally friendly way to move around Atlanta. Georgia Tech is proud to partner with the city and these other groups as we work together to develop ways to make cycling safer and more convenient.